8: Ewers E,G-4,5 (1941-1951) 1971 NF6 Blackfoot NF6

and about 70 acres on Cut Bank Creek, and planted oats, potatoes, and barley.[15] The old Indian pattern of residence in bands began to give way to the rural white man's practice of individual family residence. The Indian families built their homes along the streams near water and timber.

A delegation of Piegan leaders traveled to Washington and asked the Great White Father to spend a goodly portion of their new annuities for cattle and large horses. In 1890 some one thousand heifers and twenty-five bulls were issued, and the Piegans got their start as cattlemen. Many of them who had shown no interest in farming found herding cattle enjoyable work. It wasn't unlike caring for horses. More cattle were distributed in subsequent years. By 1896 there were more than five hundred different brands on the reservation stock book. The Great Northern Railway, which was built across the center of the reservation in the early nineties, offered a ready outlet to market for the Indians' cattle. In 1895 they shipped $30,000 worth of prime beef steers to Chicago. By 1896 the Indians were operating two hundred mowing machines to cut wild hay for winter cattle feed.[16]

During the late eighties and early nineties large stallions were given owners of Indian ponies to breed with their small mares in order to obtain stronger farm animals capable of pulling a plow or a wagon. The fullbloods could not forget that their people used to measure a man's wealth in horses. They counted their colts sired by big Morgan stallions as they were born to their Indian pony mares. The little Indian pony was disappearing, but the Indians' horse herds were increasing rapidly. Some men specialized in horses of particular colors and bragged of their hundreds of whites, browns, or pintos. Owl Child, one of the most successful Piegan stockmen of this period, was very proud of his large horse herd. He owned nearly five hundred head of cattle, worth much more than his horses, but he never mentioned them in his bragging.

Five hundred wagons were issued to the Piegans in the early

[15] *Ibid.*, 1888, 151.
[16] *Ibid.*, 1896, 176–77.